

REMARKS

Re-examination and allowance of the present application is respectfully requested.

On September 13, 2011, the Examiner handling the above-captioned application contacted the undersigned, indicating that as a result of the RCE and Submission filed on June 27, 2011, he updated his search and came across U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002-0109650 to KUBOTA et al. and U.S Patent Application Publication No. 2003-0122812. The Examiner indicated that he believed that he could apply one or more of these documents with other documents already of record, to reject independent claim 1. The Examiner further indicated that he conferred with his Supervisor, and determined that the subject matter contained in claims 2, 13 and 14 would be allowable over such a prior art combination.

While Applicants do not agree with the assertion that claim 1 would be properly rejectable over such a prior art combination, Applicants are desirous of advancing the application to issue. Thus, in accordance with an agreement reached with the Examiner on September 22, 2011, Applicants herewith submit the present Supplemental Amendment, in which claim 1 is amended to include the subject matter of "objected" claim 2, and "objected" claims 13 and 14 are each amended to include the subject matter of base claim 1. In addition, Applicants amend the dependency of claim 3 to depend from claim 1, and not claim 2, as claim 2 is herewith canceled.

The Examiner is authorized to enter the present amendments to the claims on the condition that said amendments result in the application being passed to issue, with a Notice of Allowance being mailed in this application. The Examiner is further requested to make of record the above-mention documents, so that they will appear on the face of a patent issuing from this application.

Should the Commissioner determine that a governmental fee is required to be paid for the filing of this Supplemental Amendment, the Commissioner is authorized to charge any required fee under 37 C.F.R. §1.17 to Deposit Account No. 19-0089.

If there should be any questions concerning this application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully Submitted,
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September 22, 2011
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